



Department of Justice

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ORLANDO CAREER OFFENDER SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 16 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG AND FIREARMS CHARGES

Orlando, Florida - Chief United States District Judge Patricia C. Fawsett today sentenced MARCUS CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, age 36, of Orlando, to a term of 16 years and two months in federal prison on charges of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (convicted felon) and possession of cocaine hydrochloride with the intent to distribute. Williams previously had entered guilty pleas to the charges on March 22, 2007. In addition to the prison term, Williams will have to serve three years on supervised release, perform 75 hours of community service and pay a \$200 special monetary assessment.

According to the evidence presented to the court at sentencing, members of the Orange County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Williams's residence on June 2, 2006. Once inside of the residence, deputies found drug paraphernalia, more than three kilograms of marijuana, 162 grams of cocaine powder, boxes of ammunition and three firearms, including a sawed-off shotgun with an obliterated serial number. Williams, a previously convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition under federal law. Further, Williams's previous felony convictions qualified him as a career offender for sentencing purposes.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United

States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Tanya Davis Wilson.